

Andrew Jackson to John Hutchings, September 23, 1803, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN HUTCHINGS.

Knoxville, Sept. 23, 1803

Dear Jack , I recd your letter by last Post, am happy that you have sent some goods with Lt Campbell by way of Experiment, I hope we will have a good acpt of them. Be attentive to the differrent stores¹ and to the engagements of Cotton as far as prudence will permit. I am happy to hear of the arival of the cordage and so forth, but am truly sorry, that the arbitrators have not made a final settlement of the business with Mr Watson. Press that thing—however I will be at home shortly and if not settled will immediately file a Bill in Equity against him. I have had a verry severe attack of the fever have recovered health tho not strength, but am strengthening daily. Anderson and Smith have had hard polling—five times tied—the sixth one of Smiths friends flew and gave Anderson the casting vote.² It is said the other election will come on today. If it does Smith will out vote Cocke in my oppinion. I have been much threatened at Jonesborough by the Sevierites whilst sick, but as soon as I got upon my legs, from the fierceness of lyons, the[y] softned down to the Gentleness of lambs, there is no spirit amongst them. If a man was alone without

¹ Jackson, like many other leading men in early settlements, was engaged in trading as a supplement to his profession. When he found that Tennessee lands sold readily to speculators in Philadelphia he bought them in large tracts, sold them for notes, or cash, which he converted into goods to be sold in Tennessee for notes, or cash, which in turn were converted into lands, and the process repeated. To enable him to sell his merchandise, he established stores. His first venture was at Hunter's Hill, his fine

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plantation in a great bend of the Cumberland River, about two miles from his later home, the Hermitage. He had for partner Thomas Watson, with whom there was some difficulty, so that the partnership was dissolved, and John Hutchings, a near relative of Mrs. Jackson's became a partner. In 1805 Jackson moved his store to Clover Bottom and took in John Coffee as a second partner. In trying to dispose of the cargoes he brought on from Philadelphia he opened small stores also at Gallatin, Lebanon, and perhaps elsewhere.

2 Probably refers to the election of Joseph Anderson as United States senator. See Jackson to Watson, Jan. 25, 1804.

arms, a mob of fifty might make an attack, but they knew I was prepared, and the [y] sneaked to their Den. Health and respect